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# A Photographic Story of the Flood

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# A Photographic Story of the Flood

*in*

## Dayton, Hamilton and Cincinnati

*March, 1913*

Best Flood Pictures

Published by  
**O. MIDDENDORF**  
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**CINCINNATI, O.**

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# Most Disastrous Flood in the History of the World

## ■ The Greatest Floods of All Records ■

Illustrated With the Best Photographs

March 1913

The most destructive flood in the world has passed into history. It is here pictured from photographs selected from more than a thousand prints gathered for this purpose. The Ohio and Miami Valleys have never been visited by such an enormous amount of water, entailing such disastrous results with such enormous loss of life and property. Extraordinarily heavy rains had swelled the Miami River, which is usually very small, to a raging torrent. The enormous body of water burst the great retaining levee to the north of Dayton, and the rush of waters carried everything in its paths. Bridges, large buildings and viaducts were swept from their foundations and the entire city was instantly covered with water for a depth of from four to twenty feet. A tiny

rivulet had become a raging torrent and turned a small lake into a mighty ocean. The torrent swept on, covering miles and miles of country and sweeping in its mighty flood the cities of Middletown and Hamilton, entirely covering them and cutting off all communication with the outside world. The rush of the water was so rapid the people of the inundated cities were unable to flee from its paths. Hundreds were drowned in their houses and thousands floodbound for from three to four days without food or heat. The Government of the United States was called upon for assistance, and soldiers, supplies and United States life-saving crews were rushed to the inundated districts. Little help could be given for nearly sixty hours, and the waters were so swift even power boats could not stem the torrent. The National Cash Register Works was turned into a house of refuge and thousands of homeless were quartered in its enormous buildings and provided for. The waters have receded and the rescue work is being rushed, and Dayton is now being placarded with signs reading: "We will build a more beautiful Dayton."

The holocaust is over, and like all American people, the citizens of Dayton have arisen to the emergency and everyone is doing their share to clean up the city and push the work of rebuilding.

At Hamilton there were 800 persons marooned in one building, at the corner of

High and Second Streets, without food for two days and nights. About twenty-five automobiles were left standing in one of the public parks when people out sight-seeing were caught by the flood and took refuge with 500 other persons in the courthouse, where they were without food and water for several days. Not since the big flood stage in the Ohio River at Cincinnati in 1884 has the city been visited by so much water. The flood of 1913 holds the record for destructiveness, suffering caused among thousands of residents and property loss that will amount up into the millions.

Unlike the record flood of '84, its sister of 1913 was the result of an unusually large precipitation of rain throughout the Ohio Valley. This rain-fall began early in the week, and daily reports to the Government indicated heavy rains along the Ohio River and its tributaries to headwaters. Already swollen streams began pouring volumes of water into the Ohio, which took on a steady rise March 26 and slowly but surely climbed higher and higher while the rain-fall continued, until flood warnings were issued by the Government. The "yellow peril" in the Ohio Valley began its work of destruction in the Cincinnati district, when the official stage of water at Cincinnati indicated 65 feet and rising at the rate of an inch an hour. Work of moving merchandise to places of apparent safety began among the merchants along Cincinnati's water front; residents in the lowlands were equally busy moving household effects to higher

quarters. The water rose steadily. Inch by inch, foot by foot the murky stream broadened its domain and crowded out the humble river denizens in "Shantytown," as well as the big business firms and railroads. Buildings were abandoned, street cars ceased to operate and thousands of workmen either walked to work or depended upon badly crippled car service. The water still encroached, and on April 1 reached the unusual stage of 69.8 feet, making it the greatest flood that had visited Cincinnati since '84, and another flood was added to the Ohio River.

O. MIDDENDORF.



A lumber yard washed down through a residence street in Dayton.



Relief Committee issuing rations in the flooded district of Dayton.



Fresh water supply along Dayton streets.



Troops guarding Dayton's wrecked buildings.



Three-ton safe carried a mile by the water at Dayton.



Merchandise from department store wrapped around fire plug  
and light pole at Dayton.



Counter tries to escape flood through plate-glass window at Dayton.



Traction car carried along in gutter by force of flood at Dayton.



A flooded section of Dayton.



First relief train arriving at Dayton.



Wrecked buildings in residence district of Dayton.



Dayton's big fire, which burned when the flood was highest.



Doctors, nurses and refugees in the National Cash Register Company's buildings, Dayton.



Water around National Cash Register Company's plant, Dayton.



Part of the wrecked business district of Dayton.



When flood was highest—Looking down High Street toward  
Memorial Monument, Hamilton.



When flood was highest in heart of city—Looking east on High Street, Hamilton.



View over flooded Hamilton—Looking towards hospital.



High Street Bridge, Hamilton, just before it was swept away.



View of flooded section at Courthouse, showing abandoned automobiles in court yard, at Hamilton.



High Street, near Memorial Monument, Hamilton.



An asphalt street torn up by the water and wrecked houses in Hamilton.



Searching for Hamilton's dead on lower High Street.



House in South Hamilton wrecked by flood. Many lost their  
lives here.



Babies rescued from flood at Hamilton.



Looking up Vine Street from Second Street, Cincinnati.



Bird's-eye view of East End flood section, Cincinnati.



City relief workers delivering coal on lower Plum Street, Cincinnati.



Lowering baskets for food on Lower Plum Street, Cincinnati.



Eastern Avenue, Cincinnati.



Knowlton's Corner, Cumminsville, Cincinnati.



Showing part of flooded section of West Newport.



The Licking River and the Fourth Street Bridge connecting  
Newport and Covington.



Moving out of flooded homes in East End, Cincinnati.



California, O., showing Cincinnati Water Works.



Refugees taken from a roof on Second Street.



Moving out of East End, Cincinnati.



Flooded warehouse at C. & O. Bridge, Cincinnati.



Moving day at Turkey Ridge, Cincinnati.



Relief workers issuing food and supplies to refugees in West Second Street, Cincinnati.



Landing a fair passenger into the second story of her home on  
West Second Street, Cincinnati.



Bird's-eye view of Lewisburg, Covington.



Austinburg, Covington, looking east from Edward Street.



View from Fort Thomas, Ky., showing California, O., and Coney Island at the right.





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